

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 240216

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 7 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SECRETARY TELLS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT, DESPITE SPECULATION TO CONTRARY, DOS LEGAL ADVISER CONCLUDED THAT WAR POWERS ACT "DOES NOT SUPERSEDE PREVIOUS LEGISLATION WHICH BANNED RE-INTRODUCTION OF US MILITARY FORCES INTO SOUTHEAST ASIA" (PHINQ, NYT BURIED IN STORY ON P. 46). ASKED ABOUT FUTURE C-F, HAK SAID "IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO WRITE AN AGREEMENT WHOSE TERMS IN THEMSELVES GUARANTEE ITS PERMANENCE. WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN A SETTLEMENT ...IN MOVING THE DECISION TO A VIETNAMESE DECISION,...WHAT WE ALWAYS SAID OUR OBJECTIVE WAS" (WP).
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2. WINDER (CSM) SEES "MORE THAN FEW" COUNTRIES BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF AS UNGA PUTS OFF CAMBODIAN ITEM UNTIL NEXT YEAR. AT STAKE IS TICKLISH QUESTION OF LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENTS-IN-EXILE; PRO-SIHANOUK VOTE MIGHT SERVE

AS PRECEDENT FOR EXPULSION OF OTHER UNPOPULAR REGIMES. WINDER OBSERVES THAT SIHANOUK DIDN'T HELP HIS CAUSE WITH RECENTLY-EXPRESSED DOUBTS OVER HIS CONTROL OF GRUNK AND WHETHER HE WOULD EVER RETURN HOME; THAT US GRATIFIED BY VOTE, AND THAT SOVIETS DID NOT PRESS TO SEAT SIHANOUK, AND THEIR POSITION ON CAMBODIA REMAINS OBSCURE. TELTSCH (NYT) QUOTES ASIAN DELEGATES THAT GKR UN VICTORY WAS DUE TO MONTHS OF PLANNING AND LOBBYING AND TO FAST FLOOR FOOTWORK. CALL FOR VOTE WAS MADE AFTER MANY DELEGATES HAD LEFT FOR REFRESHMENTS OR TO MINGLE IN THE LOBBY, AND THOSE KNOWN TO BE FAVORABLE WERE QUICKLY ROUNDED-UP AND RETURNED TO THEIR SEATS TO BE COUNTED. FM LONGBORET WAS GRATIFIED AT RESULT BUT REMARKED IT WAS "MUCH TOO CLOSE". THAI DELEGATE ATTRIBUTED FAVORABLE VOTE TO PLANNING, THE ARGUMENT THAT UN MEMBERS WERE NOT BEING ASKED TO TAKE SIDES BUT ONLY TO LET KHMERS WORK OUT THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, AND TO LUCK.

3. FIELD REPORTS SAY FANK TASK FORCE TRYING TO REOPEN ROUTE 4 CAPTURES SMALL VILLAGE NEAR ROAD AFTER TWO DAYS OF HARD FIGHTING (AP, SUN; PHINQ).

4. AP VIENTIANE QUOTES RLG SPOKESMAN THAT PL WANTS MORE TIME TO COMPLETE STATIONING OF TROOPS TO NEUTRALIZE VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG AS DEADLINE PASSES. PL SAYS IT STILL HAS 900 TO TRANSPORT TO COMPLETE ITS BUILD-UP TO 1000 POLICE AND ONE BATTALION OF TROOPS FOR VIENTIANE, AND HALF THAT NUMBER FOR LUANG PRABANG THAT EACH SIDE ALLOWED UNDER C-F AGREEMENT (NYT).

5. WIRE SERVICES REPORT ARVN RECAPTURE OF KHIEN DUC. EARLIER NEWSPAPERS REPORTED TANK-LED NVA ATTACK OVERRAN ARVN OUTPOST DEFENDED BY TWO MILITIA PLATOONS NEAR KHIEN DUC YESTERDAY (CSM, WP, REUTER). VNAF SKYRAIDERS AND F-5'S POUND NVA POSITIONS AROUND KHIEN DUC. SOME OBSERVERS SAY NVA WON'T ATTACK GIA NGHIA UNCLASSIFIED

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BECAUSE IT IS NOT CRITICAL FOR CONTROL OF HWY 14 (SUN, NYT, PHINQ). MARKHAM SAYS FOREIGN MILITARY ANALYSTS IN SAIGON SAY "THEY (NVA) ARE STILL LOOKING FOR STRATEGY THAT WORKS". BUT EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT SAID SINCE "ECONOMY IS DEFINITELY ACHILLES HEEL, THE COMMUNISTS CAN JUST WAIT FOR THE OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS TO RIPEN" (NYT). VC SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS "IF SAIGON REFUSES TO PUT AN END TO ITS LAND GRABBING OPERATIONS IN AREA, AND WITHDRAW FORCES, IT WILL...BE UNABLE TO ESCAPE HEAVIER PUNISHMENTS" (NYDN, UPI, WP, SUN). THIEU PARTY NEWSPAPER PREDICTS SHOWDOWN CLASH TO BEGIN SOON IN NORTHERN SVN (UPI).

6. NVA DENY BUILD-UP IN FORCES FOR OFFENSIVE, BUT

CHARGE US WARSHIPS AND PLANES CONDUCTED 37 MISSIONS AGAINST NVN. US EMBASSY SPOKESMAN IN SAIGON HAD "NO COMMENT" ON CHARGES (UPI).

7. FRENCH AND GVN FINANCE MINISTERS SIGN 2 MILLION-LLARS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT TO HELP REBUILD COUNTRY. HALF WILL BE USED FOR IMPORT OF FRENCH GOODS THE REST WILL BE INVESTED IN SVN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (REUTER, WP).

8. NHAN DAN TODAY CRITICIZED UN CAMBODIAN ACTION AS "AMERICAN MANEUVER AIMED AT AIDING CLIQUE OF TRAITOR LON NOL" (NYT). AFP HANOI REPORTS SERIES OF ARTICLES IN NHAN DAN CALLING FOR ACTION TO COMBAT "DOLCE VITA THAT IS GRADUALLY ROTTING" NVN SOCIETY. ARTICLES ACCUSED OFFICIALS AND CIVIL SERVANTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAXITY AND CORRUPTION AND FINGERED OPENLY-OPERATING BLACK MARKETS IN HANOI AND ELSEWHERE SELLING ILLICIT AND COUNTERFEIT GOODS (NYT).

9. BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE (DEC. 2) CARRIES FULL TEXT OF LETTER TO EDITOR BY AMB. GODLEY REFUTING NOV. 11 ARTICLE REPORTING ALLEGATIONS RE MANAGEMENT OF US EMBASSY LAOS BY TWO FORMER EMBASSY EMPLOYEES TESTIFYING BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE. LETTER CITED FAVORABLE COMMENT BY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BASED UNCLASSIFIED

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ON TESTIMONY FROM GAO AND AID INVESTIGATORS.

CHINA

10. EPISCOPALIAN MAGAZINE REPORTS PREDICTION BY AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN "BISHOP AND PRIEST", FRANCIS JAMES, THAT CHINESE CHRISTIAN DELEGATION WILL VISIT US NEXT YEAR. JAMES' PREDICTION IS BASED ON CONVERSATION IN LATE 1972 WITH MULTI-LINGUAL "HIGH-RANKING PARTY MEMBER" WHO VISITED HIM IN CANTON HOSPITAL WHERE JAMES WAS CONFINED (WP).

11. CSM'S POND AND NYT'S HALLORAN, IN TOKYO, SAY BANK OF CHINA HAS REPORTEDLY, IN MAJOR POLICY SHIFT, BEGUN BORROWING HARD CURRENCY ABROAD TO FINANCE PRC IMPORTS; SAID TO HAVE RECENTLY BORROWED 100-MILLION DOLLARS FROM BRITISH BANKS TO FINANCE IMPORT OF TRIDENTS. FOR US AND JAPAN, SAYS HALLORAN, PRC BORROWING MAY MEAN PEKING IS READY TO ACCEPT OTHER LOANS AND EXPORT CREDITS. THAT, IN TURN, WOULD STIMULATE AN ALREADY GROWING TRADE BY BOTH NATIONS WITH CHINA.

12. PEKING INFORMATION WEEKLY SAYS THAT FOR FIRST

TIME IN HISTORY CHINA HAS PRODUCED ENOUGH FOOD TO MEET ITS OWN NEEDS (AFP, PHINQ).

13. DIPPING INTO MAILBAG TO REPLY TO WRITER INQUIRING ABOUT "CONFLICTING REPORTS" OF MAO'S "SENILITY," JACK ANDERSON NOTES THAT HAK FOUND MAO MENTALLY ALERT DURING RECENT PEKING VISIT. ANOTHER RECENT VISITOR CAUGHT MAO IN REFLECTIVE MOOD, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HIS HEALTH WAS FAILING AND SPEAKING OF HIS "APPOINTMENT WITH GOD" (WP).

14. CSM'S WOHL CITES ITEM IN RECEN NOVOSTI PRESS BULLETIN THAT ADMITS DE FACTO EXISTENCE OF ROC. SAYS ARTICLE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PRINTED WITHOUT USSR OK, SPECULATING THAT SOVIET "BOOST" TO ROC MAY BE CONNECTED WITH MOSCOW'S EFFORTS TO SET UP ASIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY SYSTEM. "SEEN FROM THIS ANGLE," SUGGESTION OF AN INDEPENDENT TAIWAN UNCLASSIFIED

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AS POSSIBLE PARTNER IN SOVIET-SPONSORED ASIAN SECURITY PACT "WOULD REPRESENT AN ESPECIALLY SEVERE SOVIET ATTACK ON PEKING."

KOREA

15. REUTER REPORTS PARK BOWED TO STUDENT DEMANDS FRIDAY AND ORDERED IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL STUDENTS ARRESTED IN PROTESTS SINCE EARLY OCT. AND RETRACTION OF PUNISHMENTS METED OUT TO STUDENT PROTESTORS BY THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS.

JAPAN

16. IN FIRST ARAB DECLARATION IN JAPAN'S FAVOR SINCE GOJ MOVED TOWARD PRO-ARAB STANCE LAST MONTH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES SAY THEY NOW REGARD JAPAN AS IN "FRIENDLY" CATEGORY; ABU DHABI POL MINISTER GIVES ASSURANCES TO GOJ'S ENVOY TO GULF STATES (WP).

AUSTRALIA

17. PUBLIC OPINION POLLS INDICATE AUSSIE VOTERS LIKELY TO OK PRICE CONTROLS BUT REJECT WAGE FREEZE WHEN THEY VOTE 2 REFERENDA SATURDAY (REUTER). GOA VOTES DOWN PROPOSAL FOR REFERENDUM TO PICK NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM; TO HOLD POLL OF 60,000 PEOPLE, INSTEAD (REUTER NYT, WP).

18. NYT REPORTS PARLIAMENTARY POLL TAKEN BY AUSTRALIAN HOUSE SPEAKER COPE, FOLLOWING WIDESPREAD ALLEGATIONS LAST MONTH OF DRUNKENNESS IN HOUSE IN CONNECTION

WITH RECEPTION FOR NZ PM KIRK, TO DETERMINE IF LAWMAKERS

WOULD DRINK APPLE JUICE AT OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. COPE
INTERVIEWED 104 SENATORS AND HOUSE MEMBERS, FOUND
"72 SAID THEY HAD NEVER TASTED APPLE JUICE."

DOS APPOINTMENTS

19. AMONG APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARY THURSDAY
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WERE DESIGNATION OF AF ASSISTANT SEC. NEWSOM AS AMBASSADOR
TO INDONESIA AND TOM ENDERS AS EB ASSISTANT SEC.
(ALL PAPERS).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

20. TORONTO'S YORK U. PROF. GABRIEL OLKO (NYT OP-ED)
ASSERTS SENATE ARMED SERVICES AND USE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE REPORTS ON HEARINGS ON PENTAGON BUDGET REVEAL,
DESPITE CENSORSHIP, "ALARMING NEW INFORMATION" ON
ADMINISTRATION'S PLANS FOR INDOCHINA. CLAIMS THAT
SENATE HEARINGS CONTAIN AIR WAR COST DATA THAT WOULD
ENABLE HIGHER LEVEL OF BOMBING THAN 1965; AND DOD
HAS BUDGETED SEVENTH FLEET TO KEEP 77 SHIPS AND 331
AIRCRAFT IN SEA. HEARINGS ALSO CONTAIN NEW DATA ON
"CIVILIAN ADVISERS" (HIS QUOTES) WHICH DISCLOSE THAT
CONTRARY TO FAR LOWER PENTAGON CLAIMS AT THE TIME,
THERE WERE 8003 CIVILIANS IN VN LAST MARCH 31 WITH 8100
PROJECTED TO BE THERE AT END OF 1973. COST OF
SAIGON AND LAOTIAN FORCES" THIS YEAR
WILL BE MORE THAN 1.8 BILLION DOLLARS, ONE THIRD LARGER
THAN APPROPRIATION REQUEST, WITH FULL MILITARY OUTLAYS
FOR SEA IN FY 1973 FOR US AND "ITS THREE MILITARY
DEPENDENTS" TO REACH 4.6 BILLION IF CONGRESS APPROVES.
CLAIMS THAT LAST SEPTEMBER, "WHEN WESTERN JOURNALISTS
CONFIRMED THAT SAIGON WAS USING ITS VAST SUPPLY OF
ARMS TO INITIATE THE CURRENT UPSURGE OF FIGHTING",
DANGER OF RENEWED US AIR WAR INCREASED AS WELL.

21. S-N'S BRADSHAW (DEC. 6) REPORTS THAT HISTORICAL
ESSAY AND ARTICLES APPEARING IN CHINESE PRESS, AND
NEW REVOLUTIONARY OPERA "AZALEA MOUNTAIN," HINT OF
CHOU CULPABILITY IN DOWNFALL AND DEATH OF LIN BIAO.
ESSAY, WHICH WAS ABOUT RIVALRY, SUGGESTS BY ALLUSION
THAT LIN WAS IN FACT A VIRTUOUS REFORMER WHO WAS DONE
IN BY REACTIONARY CHOU, THUS RENEWING QUESTION
ABOUT MAO'S ATTITUDE TOWARD LIN. NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH
MAO CAME INTO CONFLICT WITH LIN BEFORE LIN'S FALL,
MAO HAD NEVER PUBLICLY CONDEMNED HIM. SEES THREE MAIN
ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN POLITICAL STRUGGLE WHICH HAS BEEN

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INTENSIFYIN SINCE AUGUST MAO AND RADICALS GROUPED AROUND HIM, LIN AND THOSE SOLDIERS WHO FOLLOWED HIM, AND CHOU AND HIS BUREAUCRACY CURRENTLY RUNNING CHINA. ACCORDING BRADSHER, MAO CAME TO DISTRUST LI AFTER THE GPCR BECAUSE LIN'S SOLDIERS WERE TAKING DOMINANT ROLE THAT HAD ALWAYS BELONGED TO THE PARTY. MAO'S ATTEMPT TO REDRESS BALANCE LED TO LIN'S PLOT TO REGAIN EBBING POWER; OFFICIAL HISTORY IS THAT EXPOSURE OF PLOT TO KILL MAO CAUSED LIN TO FLEE, WITH HIS DEATH FOLLOWING UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. RESULT WAS NOT, HOWEVER, A REGAINING OF DOMINANCE FOR PARTY. INSTEAD, CHOU'S GOVT. APPARATUS GAINED NEW POWER AND FOLLOWED POLICIES NOT OF MAO'S POLITICAL INSPIRATION. THUS MAO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MOVING TO REDRESS THAT BALANCE ALSO, WITH ACCOMPANYING INDIRECT PRESS CRITICISM OF CHOU AND OTHER SIGNS OF MOUNTING CONFLICT.

22. JOC'S STRAUSS, IN ARTICLE DATED IN CANTON DEC. 5, DESCRIBES CANTON FAIR'S FRUSTRATING ATMOSPHERICS. MANY OF 200-ODD AMERICANS AT FAIR GRIPE THAT CANTON IS NO FUN AT ALL AFTER YOU'VE SEEN THE SCANT ENTERTAINMENT AND AN ACUPUNCTURE EXHIBITION; AND HOTELS, WHILE IMPROVING, HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. BUT MOST TRADERS ARE ANXIOUS TO RETURN, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN FAIR FACILITIES, INCLUDING TELEX COMMUNICATIONS, ARE EXPECTED NEXT YEAR. DESCRIBES CHINESE PRESSURES ON BUSINESSMEN TO MAKE FAST DECISIONS, AND ASSERTS CHINESE ARE NOT ABOVE PLAYING OFF COMPETING SUPPLIERS AGAINST EACH OTHER BY CLAIMING SALE OFFERS AT PRICES THAT HAD IN FACT NOT BEEN MADE. BUT FOR EVERY FIRM THAT MIGHT DROP OUT OF THE TRADE, STRAUSS ASSERTS THERE ARE "THOUSANDS" WAITING TO STEP IN. BEST PROCEDURE TO GET TO FAIR APPEARS TO BE TO WRITE FIRST TO ONE OF PRC'S SEVEN MAJOR IMPORT-EXPORT CORPORATIONS, DESCRIBING FIRM AND PRODUCTS, THEN FOLLOW WITH VISIT TO PRC LOBBY IN OTTAWA. IN ANY EVENT, FINAL DECISION IS MADE IN PEKING.

3. IN LETTER TO S-N EDITOR (DEC. 6), JACOB STEIN, WHO HEADED DELEGATION OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

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JEWISH ORGS VISITING JAPANESE AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK, DENIES ASSERTION IN BIOSAT COLUMN THAT DELEGATION THREATENED "UGLY BUSINESS OF A CUSTOMER BOYCOTT", AND A CHECK WITH HIM OR YASUKAWA WOULD HAVE MADE THAT CLEAR. SAYS EST ANSWER TO BIOSAT'S SUGGESTION

THAT US "REWARD" JAPAN'S SURRENDER TO ARAB BLACKMAIL
WITH THE "FULLEST MEASURE OF SYMPATHY AND HELP" WAS
SUPPLIED BY DOS SPOKESMAN WHO SAID: "WHILE WE DO

E CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR THE DIFFI ULT
HAVE CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR THE DIFFICULTIES
FACING JAPAN, WE REGRET THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE A STATE E T...WHICH
WILL AKE MORE DIFFICULT THE SETTLEMENT BASED ON...
RESOLUTION 242, AN OBJECTIVE WHICH BOTH THE US
AND JAPAN SHARE." STEIN CONCLUDES THAT THE ONLY WAY
TO STOP BLACKMAIL IS TO REFUSE TO PAY IT. KISSINGER

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